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December 30, 2009

Dear Potential MSC Applicant:

It is with great pleasure that I announce the opening of the application period for Montana libraries interested in joining the Montana Shared Catalog during 2009. Applications will be accepted until 5:00 PM (MST), February 18, 2009. See the application for the review, approval and implementation schedules. We very much appreciate the major roles the Network Advisory Council and State Library Commission play in this application review and approval process.

The MSC application process for this period has been modified from previous years to account for the downturn in the economy and limitations associated with MSC staff size and workload capacity. Prior to this year, generally all applicants that passed prequalification screening were approved to join and receive LSTA funding to cover startup costs. This year, due to uncertainty as to the amount of LSTA funds that will be available coupled with anticipated MSC staff workload, we may have to limit the number of libraries that will be able to join during the coming year.

If your library is interested in joining, please do submit your application. I strongly encourage you to follow the instructions carefully and complete the application in its entirety, paying special attention to the essay questions. Do not hesitate to email or call me at anytime with any questions you may have. Thank you and I am sincerely looking forward to receiving your application.

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